

Any attempt by the FCC to collude with media interests in forcing adoption of copy protection standards in HDTV's would effectively cripple that product and erode consumer rights. The FCC must ask itself where it's loyalties lie. Do you protect the common interest? Or do you protect the selfish interests of the few.

Copy protected television signals would turn the clock back over 20 years for consumers and limit the usefulness of broadcasts. There is a compelling state interest in allowing citizens to "time-shift" broadcasts. Such capabilities free citizens from being constrained to schedules imposed by broadcasters.

If HDTV fails to retain this characteristic of NTSC broadcasts, then the value of HDTV is dramatically diminished. Media owners are acting out of paranoia that is flatly contradicted by historical fact. They have nothing to fear from digital VCR's now just as they had nothing to fear from analog VCR's in the past. Please do not be driven by their unenlightened hysteria in the face of progress.

I am a Tivo user. I greatly enjoy the ability to "set my own schedule" and defer viewing for as long as may be necessary to fit my busy schedule and family life. If HDTV is forced down my throat with features that make my Tivo useless, my family will stop watching TV completely.